

CITY OF KENNEWICK  
RESOLUTION NO. 19-06

A RESOLUTION CENSURING COUNCILMAN JOHN TRUMBO  
FOR MISUSE OF HIS POSITION AND ACTING OUTSIDE HIS AUTHORIZED ROLE

WHEREAS, John Trumbo is a member of the Kennewick City Council and represents the City and the Council in all of his public activities; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of all City Councilmembers to preserve the dignity of their office in a manner that reflects the stature of the office of City Councilman; and

WHEREAS, KAC 7-42-010(1) prohibits Councilmembers from using their position to secure special privileges; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Trumbo has been advised that he is not to use his City Council title or position when he is acting on behalf of himself as a resident of Kennewick; and

WHEREAS, City code protects employees from liability when they act within the course and scope of their authority and duties, and this conduct was not within the scope or course of Councilmember Trumbo's duties or authority; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Trumbo's conduct does not demonstrate the City's Core Values of Leading the Way through Integrity, Inclusiveness, Stewardship and Communication; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of a censure motion is to denounce misdeeds, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, that the City Council finds that the following improper conduct occurred:

- 1) Councilmember Trumbo used his position as Councilmember to obtain information (per Benton County Sheriff's Office Investigation Report Case Number (19-00641):
  - a. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Councilmember Trumbo went to the residence of a citizen to investigate a rumor and left his City Council business card when they didn't answer the door asking them to call him.
  - b. Councilmember Trumbo did not have the authority nor was authorized to investigate this matter on behalf of the City or the City Council, yet he used his Council position and City business card.
- 2) Councilmember Trumbo filed a report with the Sheriff's office based on unfounded rumors and accusations against an existing Councilmember.

- 3) After Councilmember Trumbo was told by the Benton County Sheriff's Office that their investigation found the allegations to be unfounded, he subsequently brought this unfounded accusation to the Tri-City Herald for them to research, which further perpetuated a false rumor relating to a current Councilmember.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Councilman John Trumbo is hereby censured for his conduct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Councilmember Trumbo is hereby removed from all his boards and commission assignments through December 31, 2019 and ordered to not have any interaction regarding these assignments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this Resolution shall be sent to all media outlets and posted on the city website.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNEWICK, WASHINGTON, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019, and signed in authentication of its passage this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019.

Attest:

  
DON BRITAIN, Mayor

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TERRI L. WRIGHT, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

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LISA BEATON, City Attorney